



**Vasquez Boulevard/ I-70 Site  
Technical SubGroup Meeting  
August 17, 1999 •**

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss EPA's proposed responses to comments on the draft project plan for the Pilot Scale Soil Characterization Study. The meeting was requested by the working group on August 5, 1999.

**Meeting Summary**

EPA provided a general summary of the following major modifications to the plan:

1. Soils having "intermediate levels" of arsenic (defined as levels between 150 parts per million (ppm) and 450 ppm) have been added to the study.
2. Study objective hypotheses have been developed for the consideration of the soils with "intermediate levels" of arsenic. These new hypotheses were provided to the subgroup and are attached.
3. The Standard Operating Procedures for metal speciation have been revised to include the additional metals indium, thallium, mercury, and selenium.
4. Characterization of the composite sample which will be used in the relative bioavailability (RBA) study is no longer a part of this pilot study. EPA considers that the characterization of this sample is more appropriately done as part of the RBA study and this work will be described in the RBA project plan.

The following additional modifications were discussed by the group and resolved as follows:

EPA agreed to add antimony to the list of metals speciated.

The method of characterizing perlite was discussed and stereomicroscopy was recommended by Asarco. After further researching this method, EPA will use polarized light microscopy and will include an SOP in the final project plan.

At the group's suggestion, EPA will obtain photographs of the electron microscopy analyses.

The State requested additional information to support the statements in the project plan regarding lead co-occurrence with arsenic. EPA agreed. The group was provided a copy of the results of a metals correlation analysis

The study objective hypotheses state that the conclusion if the null hypothesis is not rejected is "Data collected from the physical characteristics measured in soils are not sufficient to solely discern if bulk soil transport is a contamination pathway to the VBI70 site." This language was modified to, "sufficient for use in source attribution".

EPA will provide summary statistics of the results of residential soil sampling at the Sandy Smelters and Murray Smelter sites in Salt Lake City, Utah.

EPA will include a site soil sample which has been certified at very low ( $< 10$  ppm) arsenic levels in this study.